REMARKS

Claims 1-44 and 72-81 are pending in the application.

Claims 1, 18, 20, 22, 34, 39, 41 and 43 have been amended. Support for the amendments to claims 1, 18, 20, 22, 39, 41, and 43 can be found of page 19, line 9 - page 20, line 29 of the specification. Claim 34 has been amended to correct a spelling error, and the scope of claim 34 has not been changed by this amendment. No new matter has been added.

Claims 45-71 have been canceled.

Claims 1-44 and 72-81 stand rejected.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-8, 10, 18-20, 22-29, 31, 33, 39-41, 43, 44, 72, 74, 76, and 18-80 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sun et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,501,740) (hereinafter referred to as "Sun") in view of Nielsen (U.S. Pat. No. 6,212,268) (hereinafter referred to as "Nielsen"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The cited art fails to teach or suggest "presenting an option to specify a quorum associated with a meet-me conference call... and establishing a media transport channel after detecting that the quorum is established, in response to a user selecting the option, wherein the establishing the media transport channel joins the user to the meet-me conference call," as recited in amended claim 1.

Sun and Nielsen, both alone and in combination, fail to teach or suggest establishing a media transport channel to join the user to the meet-me conference after detecting that the quorum is established. In Sun, a call server provides information about the availability, scheduling and status of teleconferences available for a conferee to join. Sun, col. 3, lines 41-50. Nielsen teaches a callback service in which the callback server calls and connects participants to the conference and determines whether a minimum acceptable connection has been established. If the minimum acceptable connection has not been established, the callback server waits a predetermined amount of time and then attempts to place the call again. Nielsen, col. 5, lines 21-39.

In both of the cited references, there is no attempt to establish a media transport channel to a user after detecting that a quorum is established. For example, in Nielsen, the callback server calls and connects conference participants and subsequently determines whether the minimum acceptable connection has been established. In Nielsen's callback system, if the minimum acceptable connection has been established, all of the desired the conference participants will necessarily already be present in the conference, and thus there is no need to establish a media transport channel with another user at that time. Nor is there any suggestion in the cited art to establish a media transport channel to a user after detecting that a quorum is established. Thus, the cited art fails to teach or suggest amended claim 1. Claims 2-8, 10, and 18-20 depend from claim 1, and thus they too are patentable over the cited art for at least the foregoing reasons. Claims 22-29, 31, 33, 39-41, 43, and 44 are patentable over the cited art for similar reasons to claim 1.

Further with respect to claim 18, the cited art fails to teach or suggest originating the media transport channel from the user's terminal in response to a message indicating that the quorum has been established. Sun teaches that both connectionless and connection-oriented parties can schedule teleconferences (col. 6, lines 6-33); that information such as the teleconference name; participants; and participants' connection equipment, connection mode, and connection status can be displayed to a user wishing to join a teleconference (col. 7, lines 51-61); and that the PSTN can place the appropriate calls to PSTN participants in a scheduled conference while connectionless conferees are connected to call server, either at their own initiative or by the call server (col. 8, lines 10-27). Nielsen teaches that a callback server will call conference participants, determine whether a minimum acceptable connection has been established, and then retry the conference if a minimum acceptable condition has not been established (col. 5, lines 21-39).

None of the cited art teaches or suggests a message that indicates that a quorum has been established, nor does the cited art teach or suggest originating a media transport channel from the user's terminal in response to such a message. For example, while Sun teaches that connectionless participants can contact the call server at their own initiative at the scheduled conference time, there is no suggestion that a media transport channel be

originated from a user's terminal in response to a message indicating that a quorum has been established. Nielsen teaches that a callback server will retry a conference if no minimum acceptable connection has been established. When retrying, the callback server calls the participants to the conference in response to waiting a predesignated amount of time. Thus, neither reference teaches or suggests originating a media transport channel from the user's terminal in response to a message indicating that the quorum has been established. Claim 18 is further patentable over the cited art for at least this reason. Claims 39 and 80 are further patentable over the cited art for similar reasons.

The cited art also fails to teach or suggest "presenting an option to specify a quorum associated with a meet-me conference call... and sending a token to a conference manager application, in response to a user selecting the option, wherein the token comprises information indicating that the user will wait until the quorum is established before joining the meet-me conference call," as recited in claim 72.

The Office Action notes that "Sun does not specifically teach ... sending a token which comprises information indicating that the user will wait until the quorum is established." Office Action, p. 9. The Office Action then cites col. 5, lines 21-39 of Nielsen as teaching this feature. The cited portions of Nielsen recite:

> FIG. 5 is a flow chart of an exemplary callback connection process. When the time for a schedule call occurs the server will retrieve the phone numbers of participants from the database 500 and the server calls each participant and connects them (510) using methods currently used and well-known in the callback industry. The server next determines if the minimum acceptable connection has been established 520. For a two party call the minimum acceptable connection would be a connection between both parties. However, for a conference call involving a group of participants, the minimum acceptable connection could be some minimum number of participants responding to the attempt to establish the conference call. This number would need to be specified either at the time the customer registers for the service or at the time the call is pre-scheduled. The minimum acceptable connection parameters are stored in the database. If the minimum acceptable connection has not been made then the server will check to see if the maximum number of call attempts has been exceed 530. If the maximum number of attempts has not been exceeded the server will wait a pre-determined amount of time 540 and then attempt to place the call again 510.

The cited passage makes no mention of sending a token that indicates whether a user will wait until a quorum is established (or of sending any token at all). Instead, this passage describes how a callback service will call each participant and then determine whether the minimum acceptable connection has been established. If the minimum acceptable condition has not been established, the callback service can wait and then attempt to place the call again. The callback service does wait between attempts to place the call; however, the fact that the callback service waits between call attempts neither teaches nor suggests sending a token that indicates whether a user will wait until a quorum is established. For at least this reason, claim 72 is patentable over the cited art.

Claims 9, 11, 13-17, 30, 32, 34-38, 75, and 77 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sun et al in view of Nielsen and further in view of Eaton (U.S. Pat. No. 5,483,588) (hereinafter referred to as "Eaton"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Claims 9, 11, 13-17, 30, 32, 34-38, 75, and 77 are patentable over the cited art for reasons similar to those provided above with respect to claims 1 and 72.

Claims 21, 42, 73, and 81 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sun et al in view of Nielsen and further in view of Eaton and Jonsson (U.S. Pat. No. 6,272,214) (hereinafter referred to as "Jonsson"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Claims 21, 42, 73, and 81 are patentable over the cited art for reasons similar to those provided above with respect to claims 1 and 72.

Additionally, the cited art fails to teach or suggest "presenting notification that the quorum associated with the meet-me conference call has been established," as recited in claim 21. The Office Action cites Jonsson as teaching "that it is well known in the art to have a meet-me conferencing system and of presenting notification that a quorum associated with a meet-me conference call has been established via at least a paging messaging service." Office Action, p. 13. The Office Action cites col. 3, lines 3-28 of Jonsson, which recite:

> Essentially, in accordance with the present invention, a communications system creates a unique identifier which is associated directly with an upcoming telemeeting, rather than with a particular piece of terminal equipment (e.g., a conference administrator's "intelligent" telephone). For example, depending on the surrounding communications environment, the unique identifier can be a preselected telephone number in a Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN), or a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) that identifies an address on the World Wide Web. In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, a conference administrator initiates a telemeeting, which is created and administered automatically under the control of a conference service node. The conference service node is coupled to a telecommunications network. The intended participants can be invited to the meeting by including the unique identifier along with a notification message, such as, for example, in a facsimile message, e-mail message, page message, voice mail message, bulletin board announcement (e.g., at a World Wide Web site), etc. If the conference service node is coupled to a cellular communications network, such as a Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) network, the unique identifier can be generated by the conference service node and transmitted by the network in a Short Message Service (SMS) text message to one or more GSM subscribers (who are also intended participants).

The cited passage of Jonsson clearly does not teach or suggest presenting notification that a quorum associated with a meet-me conference call has been established. Instead, the cited passage simply describes how intended participants can be invited to a telemeeting by sending a fax, email, page, voice mail, or the like that includes the unique identifier of the telemeeting. Since the cited art fails to teach or suggest "presenting notification that the quorum associated with the meet-me conference call has been established," claims 21, 42, 73, and 81 are further patentable over the cited art for this additional reason.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 512-439-5087.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on February 7, 2005.

Brenna A Brock 2-7-2005

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Respectfully submitted,

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